

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No. 1812, December 12, 1953

CHARITY CONCERTS ARE HER HOBBY

Nine-year-old girl of many talents

IN a back parlour in Tottenham, London, a nine-year-old girl let her dreams carry her into a land of make-believe.

She would like to do so many things, to be—oh, so many people! What fun to be a French girl, and an American sailor, too; to dance like Moira Shearer, and also like Fred Astaire! How nice to sing like Rose Murphy, or to make people laugh like Arthur Askey and Suzette Tarri!

As she wished, so the girl became the gay mademoiselle, or the sailor hitching his trousers and bending his knees. She sprang into a ballet routine, and then made the parlour ring with taps.

With horn-rimmed glasses and hunched shoulders she was "Arthur Askey," swaggering about before falling on her face. When she arose, a knitted tea-cosy had replaced the spectacles and she had become Suzette Tarri bemoaning fate.

FOR GOOD CAUSES

Sonia Sackman was rehearsing for a British Legion concert. To her this was yet another in the series of charity performances that had become her hobby.

Flood relief, welfare funds, children's hospitals, the aged, the blind, are among the causes she has aided by her appearances.

The story of her public performances began when Sonia was four-and-a-half, and on a holiday in Cliftonville. Persuaded by a friend who was very anxious to compete, Sonia entered a children's

This year, as a change from the straightforward singing and dancing that had previously brought success, Sonia tried her luck with impressions of favourites whom she had studied on television.

It made no difference to the result. She still took first prize.

After 18 months at her dancing school Sonia won the bronze, silver, and gold medals of the Royal Academy of Dancing. Now she is in the position of having to wait five years until she is 14 before she can take any more examinations in tap-dancing.

During the past year, therefore, she has been concentrating on ballet as well, and has passed her primary examination with a report even more favourable than those on her tap-dancing.

NO STAGE-FRIGHT

Her competition successes led to charity organisers asking Sonia to appear at concerts in aid of funds. These, too, Sonia takes in her stride.

She looks upon them as a thrilling hobby, and that, perhaps, is partly the reason that she does not suffer from stage-fright. There have, however, been occasions when she has been taken aback.

When she was appearing in a programme which included Jack Train, Gladys Hay, the Beverley Sisters, the Five Smith Brothers, Renee Houston and Donald Stewart, MacDonald Hobley was the Compère. He asked her if she was ready, and Sonia said: "Yes."

"Then," recalled Sonia, "I heard him announce that the next act was a very big, tall lady. Of course when they saw me everybody laughed, and I did not know what to do for a minute."

UNEXPECTED DUET

At another concert Sonia was singing Mademoiselle from Poree, when quite unexpectedly Sam Browne joined in and sang the song with her as a duet.

Already Sonia realises that in a song-and-dance routine, the accompanist on the piano can make or mar the act.

"There's a woman pianist I have sometimes," she said, "who is just wonderful. If I make a mistake, she doesn't stick to the music, but improvises and follows me, covering up the mistake so that no one notices it!"



Sonia Sackman

talent competition to keep her company. Sonia took first prize, and her friend was second:

After that, Cliftonville was the only place Sonia ever wanted to visit for her holiday. Year after year she returned—attracted, perhaps, not entirely by the sands, but by the thrill of winning prizes by her song-and-dance act with local concert parties.

Meanwhile, she had also started to take first prizes in annual competitions run by her local borough council in London, first in the untrained, and then, as she took proper lessons in dancing, in the trained sections.

BOOMERANG THROWER OF COVENTRY

Children playing in the Coventry parks often have a chance to watch a real boomerang-thrower. Mr. Bert Harvey has brought the art to perfection, and he is even able to throw two boomerangs at the same time.

It looks so easy when the boomerangs leave the thrower's hands to soar upward and then return, yet it has taken him a lifetime to reach that standard.

An Australian, Mr. Harvey often played with Aborigine children in his native Queensland, and from an early age he determined to learn the way to master the wrist flick, which is so essential before going to advanced throwing.

Today, besides being a collector of Aborigine implements, he also makes boomerangs of exquisite design, which he sends to Australia.

At a London wedding

Little Celia Denton, aged three, glances shyly at her five-year-old escort, Edward Coleridge, dressed in the uniform of an old-time Guards officer.

TREE-PLANTING GOES WITH A BANG

A new method of tree-planting has recently been reported from Hungary.

An explosive is placed in a small hole drilled in the earth to about a depth of 24 inches, and then detonated. The hole for planting is then produced; the heat of the explosion kills pests in the surrounding soil; and the nitrogen released from the charge improves the soil, acting as a fertiliser.

HE GAVE AWAY MOUNTAINS

A bronze bust of a Maori chief wearing a kiwi feather cloak and holding a war club has been unveiled at Chateau Tongariro, the mountain resort which is about midway between Auckland and Wellington.

It is a memorial to a chief named Te Heuheu Tukino, who 63 years ago presented to the New Zealand Government the mountainous region now known as the Tongariro National Park.

ON OTHER PAGES

| | |
|---|----|
| SPOTLIGHT ON MALTA . . . | 2 |
| ON THE ROYAL ROUTE—ACROSS THE PACIFIC . . . | 4 |
| ON THE AIR . . . | 4 |
| THE HUT MAN . . . | 7 |
| FILM REVIEW . . . | 7 |
| NEWS FROM CHESTER ZOO . . . | 11 |
| PRIZE COMPETITION . . . | 11 |

SPOTLIGHT ON MALTA

CN Diplomatic Correspondent

ON Saturday December 12 Malta will begin three days of General Elections, and they will focus attention not only on the economic difficulties of the Maltese people—and they are great—but also on their ardent wish for higher status under the British Crown.

Despite the occasional high feeling and temper the people of Malta display in their relations with Britain, they have been bound by affection and loyalty to this country ever since Nelson rescued them at their appeal from the grip of Napoleon.

"We are Maltese born," they say, "but British by choice."

Then they proceed to baffle British statesmen by blunt disagreement with the Mother Country's policies for Malta's well-being.

The best way to achieve a higher status and to meet their economic difficulties will be the main issues in their choice of government. Dr. Borg Olivier, Premier of the former Government, urges Dominion Status. Mr. Mintoff, former Opposition leader, and Malta's most revolutionary politician, offers another policy.

He urges, in effect, that Malta should become a part of Britain—rather like another Isle of Wight.

TRADE GAP

This could be done gradually, he suggests, by incorporating the island into Britain's political, financial, and social structure.

This suggestion arises from Malta's admitted dependence on Britain. Each year the trading figures show a desperate gap between the money earned by exports and the money spent on necessary imports. Last year, for instance, exports brought them less than £2,000,000, while imports cost £14,000,000.

The adverse balance is somehow made up—by money grants from Britain and earnings for services to the Royal Navy—"our Navy" as the Maltese regard it—and other Forces established on the island.

What the Maltese heartily dislike is the idea of Colonial status. They feel that it implies a political and educational backwardness which is far from the truth.

In fact, they are an advanced and cultured people. They have a natural aptitude for administration, as well as a high educational standard which they have maintained through all their troubles.

DOUBLE-SHIFT SCHOOLS

Despite the terrible wartime damage to Malta (about 27,000 buildings were destroyed) the people refused to let it destroy their morale. Because not enough schools were left, a double-shift system for pupils was worked in the school buildings which still could be used. When teachers dismissed one class they called in another set of children and gave the same lesson again.

This determination not to be beaten by difficulties is typical of the Maltese.

Vigour and spirit and courage of the order possessed by the people of the George Cross island can solve most problems.

MORE WHOOPING CRANES

Officials at the Aransas Wild-life Refuge at Austwell, Texas, think that the whooping crane is becoming more numerous.

The colony of cranes winters there and last year totalled 21, with only two young. A count early in November revealed 16 of the rare waterfowl, including three young.

The migration of the whooping cranes from Canada goes on until mid-December.

Friend across the sea



CN reader Nellie Bligh, whose home is on the Essequibo River in British Guiana.

TROUSERS FOR 2s. 6d.

Ties at 1d. each, and trousers at 2s. 6d. a pair—these were among the bargains offered the other day by a store in the Yorkshire town of Morley.

The shop had been bought by another firm, so the stocks had to be cleared quickly. On the first day of the sale a queue began to form at 2.30 a.m.

FOR A FRIEND

AN ideal Christmas present for a friend across the seas—one that lasts for a whole year—can be had for 17s. 4d. For this sum Children's Newspaper will be sent every week for a year to any address overseas.

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PLEASE send your remittance, together with full name and address (in block capitals) of the friend to whom the CN is to be sent, to *Subscription Department, Children's Newspaper, The Fleetway House, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4*, and we will do the rest.

IF desired, a special greetings card bearing your own name and address will be sent with the first copy.



By the CN Press Gallery Correspondent

STAMP collectors among our readers know how conservative Britain is in her stamp designs. But there is hope yet.

Earl De La Warr, the Postmaster-General, is considering a wider use of pictorial design, at any rate in stamps costing more than 1s. 6d.

A great champion of the scenic stamp is Viscount Elibank, who would like to see our letters bearing impressions of some of the natural beauties and historical monuments of the British Isles.

ON the other hand, Lord Gifford would like the Bank of England to experiment with a new banknote—worth £2. He thinks the present £5 note, with a gap of £4 between it and the £1 note, is too cumbersome to fit into people's wallets.

But the Government see no popular demand for a "mid-way" note. It may, however, surprise readers of this column to know that in the past the Bank of England has issued notes valued £10, £20, £50, £100, £200, and even £1000.

All these have now been "de-monetised." That is to say, they have been called in by the Bank and have lost their legal-tender status.

AN M.P.: Is it in order for an hon. Member to put his foot on the seat while addressing the House?

Mr. Speaker: There is no rule against it, but it is very ungainly.

THIS column is always fascinated by short factual answers which tell big stories. Here are two recent items from parliamentary replies:

Density of vehicular traffic on our roads is now 18 per mile. That compares with 17 in the United States, seven in France, four in Sweden.

Britain's trade with Russia and Iron Curtain countries before the war was six per cent of her whole world trade. Since the war ended it has averaged about two per cent.

QUOTES: In a way we export brains: not by actually taking the cerebellum out and sinking it in the sea, but by using brains to turn some more or less cheap material into a more or less desirable object of merchandise.—*Mr. Kenneth Pickthorn, Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Education.*

By "shortly" I mean within a few weeks.—*Mr. Harold Mac-Millan, Minister of Housing and Local Government.*

SUCCESS IN SONG

What may possibly be a record in singing triumphs has been set up by 12-year-old John Farndon of Bedworth, near Nuneaton.

He has been winning prizes in musical festivals ever since he was seven, and this year he has won eleven classes in succession.

News from Everywhere

JOINT EFFORT

A 24-mile tunnel through a mountain at Invergarry, Inverness-shire, which has taken 21 months to bore, was less than an inch out of alignment when the two working parties met in the centre.

Mr. Jeffrey Dinsdale of Altofts, near Wakefield, has 750,000 metal milk-bottle tops. By Easter he hopes to have a million, which he estimates will provide enough money to buy a guide dog for a blind person.

Britain, the world's biggest shoe-exporting country, sold abroad last year seven million pairs, valued at £8,300,000.

New Zealanders have given 20 bales of clothing worth £7000 for distribution to needy Greeks.

THOUSAND AND ONE

Hubert Mayes, 17, of Ashton Keynes, the 1000th A.T.C. cadet to qualify under the Flying Scholarship scheme, recently received his pilot's A licence from Lord Brabazon, who holds Licence No. 1.

Because his employees' watches are "slow in the morning and fast in the evening," the Mayor of Oberhausen, Germany, has offered to have their watches mended or checked free of charge.

By the end of this year Britain expects to have doubled last year's record output of bicycles to the United States.

LIGHT TASK

Philadelphia's Christmas decorations were switched on by rays from a star 177 light-years away.

More than half of all United States homes now have TV sets.

A warrior's helmet discovered in Olympia at Athens by a German archaeological expedition is believed to have belonged to Miltiades, the Greek general who defeated the Persians at Marathon in 490 B.C.

The Cranbrook (Kent) Parish Council are seeking to preserve the old village windmill shown in our picture on page 6.

The children's steamroller at St. Pancras was provided by the Borough Council, and not the L.C.C. as stated in the caption of our recent front-page picture.

FAIR EXCHANGE

Sweden is now Britain's biggest customer in Europe, and Britain in turn is Sweden's largest export market.

Thirty clergymen are working one day a week in Bristol factories under a scheme to bring the Church closer to industrial workers.

It is estimated that there are about 110,000 reindeer in northern Norway, valued at £900,000. Some 2700 people earn a living from reindeer-keeping.

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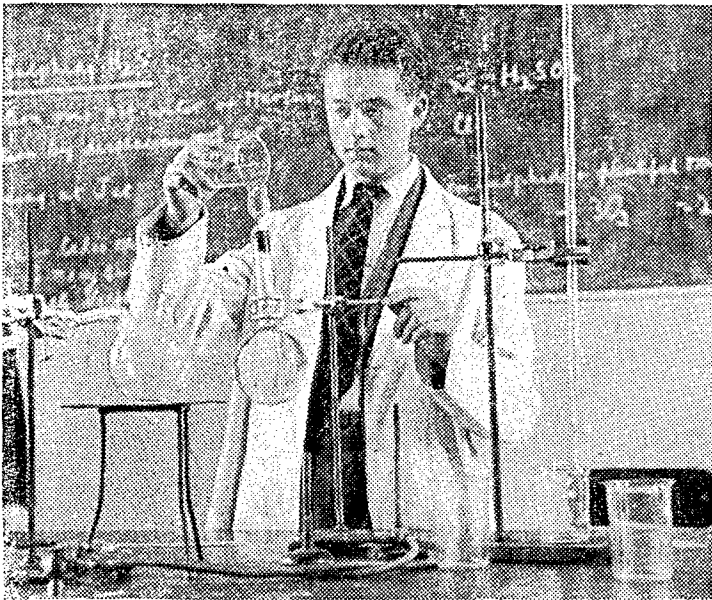
WATCH FOR NEW CLUB ACTIVITIES

Teacher's Name

Address

DS/CN12

The Children's Newspaper, December 12, 1953



Newcomer at Harwell

Boys from grammar and technical schools can now be employed at Harwell in the Atomic Energy Research Establishment. Among the first to be admitted was 16-year-old Donald Young of Hove, Sussex, here seen conducting an experiment in his school laboratory.

PRIDE OF THE RIVER WEAR

The Wear Shipbuilders' Association has been celebrating the centenary of its foundation in 1853, when 45 shipbuilders of Sunderland joined forces together.

Now there are only eight shipbuilders in the group, but the total output is much higher.

Sunderland has a long record of shipbuilding. The town's museum has a locally-made canoe which is thought to be 4000 years old, and there is an actual record of shipbuilding on the river dating back to 1346. In that year a citizen paid the Bishop of Durham 2s. for a year's rent of land on the river bank for building ships.

Another notable date was the building of the first steamship in 1845. The last wooden ship was made there in 1880, and the last sailing ship in 1893.

In 1853 the number of ships launched on the Wear was 153, totalling 68,922 tons. The demand was great that year because of the Crimean War. This year 29 ships have so far been completed, but they total 203,255 tons.

CORONATION CARPETS

Pieces of the gold and blue carpets laid down in Westminster Abbey for the Coronation have been sent to more than 150 churches in Britain, the Commonwealth, and the U.S.A.

The sizes of the pieces vary from small strips for altar steps to large lengths for aisles, and it is expected that their sale will realise about £9000.

FOR FILM FANS

Only two weeks to Christmas means anxiety as well as pleasure for those who have not completed their gift list.

A helpful suggestion for most lists is The Super Cinema Annual 1954 (7s.). Most of us have a friend who would welcome this well-illustrated book. It is a gallery of stars accompanied by fine film stories and articles.

IN WESTERN STYLE

An episode that might almost have come out of a Western film occurred the other day in Willesden, north-west London.

A runaway horse and cart dashed past Mr. R. H. Eastaff while he was talking to a lorry-driver friend in a busy street. Immediately the lorry went in pursuit with Mr. Eastaff hanging on to the running-board.

For 150 yards the chase went on until the lorry drew level with the horse. Mr. Eastaff then jumped from the running-board into the cart and from there clambered onto the horse's back. Eventually he managed to catch hold of the reins and bring the frightened animal to a standstill.

SWAN SURPLUS

There are now too many swans along the north-east coast of England, according to the Northumberland and Durham Wildfowling Association.

Eventually, it is believed, they will have a disastrous effect on bird life along the coast, for grasses, the staple food of many birds, are uprooted by the swans and carried out to sea.

Stern task



While the liner Queen Mary was being overhauled in dry dock at Southampton this picture was taken of a workman inside the 160-ton rudder.

CIVIL WAR MONEY BUYS BLANKETS

An old custom was observed at Watlington Church, Oxfordshire, when blankets were distributed to the needy of the parish.

Known as the Robert Parslow Charity, it originated in the Civil War. John Hampden, one of Oliver Cromwell's leaders, billeted some of his troops at the Hare and Hounds the day before the Battle of Chalgrove in 1643.

Money was left at the inn to pay the troops after the battle, but as Hampden was mortally wounded it was uncollected.

The landlord, Robert Parslow, kept the money but, repenting in his old age, willed the money to the poor of Watlington, the interest to be distributed on the anniversary of his death.

LIFE IN THE DAYS OF JESUS

Fascinating glimpses of life in the land that Jesus knew are given in Dr. A. C. Bouquet's new book, *Everyday Life in New Testament Times* (Batsford, 15s.).

He takes us into the homes of people in the time of Jesus. He tells of their food, clothes, tools, household articles, schools, amusements, and religion. He reveals what they did when they fell sick, how they did their shopping, paid their bills, and wrote their letters.

All this and much more is in the scholarly but easy-to-understand book, illustrated with a wealth of excellent drawings by Marjorie Quennell. It will fascinate all young people.

SUBMARINE RESCUE

A new type of submarine-rescue vessel which will enable men to be brought up from damaged submarines at greater depths than is now possible is to be added to the Royal Navy.

The vessel carries a diving-bell that can be clipped over the escape hatches of a crippled submarine. Successful experiments have been carried out on a dummy submarine, using an American rescue-bell of similar design.

FOR THE BLIND

Mr. Alfred Barham, of Morden, Surrey, has devised a special walking-stick for blind people. It has a battery attached, so that when a button is pressed the word BLIND lights up in red.

One of the first to use the stick will be the inventor himself, for he is rapidly losing his sight.

NORSEMAN OF OLD

The skeleton of a giant man seven feet two inches tall and probably 1000 years old has been found during road widening in the Lincolnshire village of Swallow, near Market Rasen.

The skeleton is thought to be the bones of an ancient Norseman who probably fell in battle.

PRESERVING THE VIEW

So that the views of the historic city of York and its Minster shall not be spoiled, a new gasholder is to be partly sunk into the ground. A screen of trees is also to be planted.

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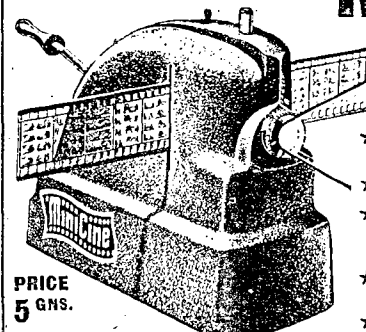
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4
On the Royal Route

THE VAST PACIFIC

By our Shipping Correspondent

THE Gothic, with the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on board, is due to arrive off Suva, capital of the Fiji Islands, on December 17. She will then have been on the waters of the Pacific for 18 days, with no sight of land other than perhaps a distant view of some small group of islands.

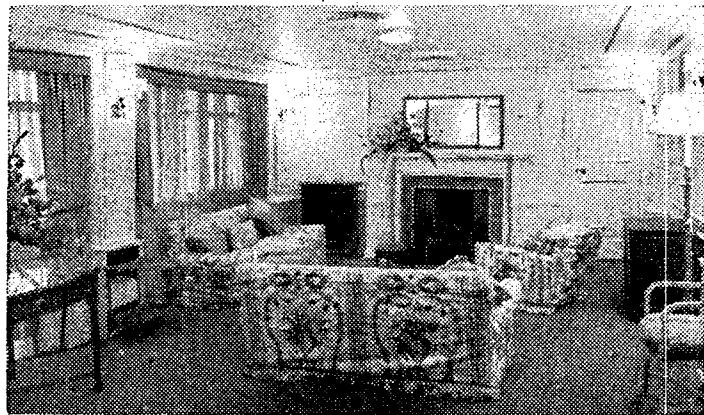
Yet the Royal travellers will by then have glimpsed but a small part of the Pacific Ocean, which could quite easily submerge the entire land surface of the globe.

As Joseph Conrad, the great sea writer, once wrote: "The world of geography, as far as the apportioning of space goes, seems to have been planned mostly for the convenience of fishes."

The surface area of the world is about 197 million square miles, and 141 million square miles of it are water. The Pacific Ocean

On the following day the Sea King himself arrives (generally played by the bo'sun on board), with his buxom, long-haired Queen (a young sailor with ropeyarn tresses), and is accorded a royal reception.

Those who have not already crossed the Line are then chased by Neptune's bulldogs, caught,



The Queen's day room in the Gothic

alone, which is twice the size of the Atlantic, covers 64 million square miles.

The Eastern Pacific was first seen by a white man in 1513, by the Spaniard Balboa. It was first crossed by Drake in the Golden Hind in the first circumnavigation of the globe in 1577-80, in that tremendous voyage in the reign of the first Queen Elizabeth to which Sir Winston Churchill referred in his farewell message of Godspeed to the Queen.

The Queen, who is a lover of wild life, will find plenty of interest in the sea birds of the Pacific. She will see pelicans, sooty petrels, even perhaps the one breed of tropical albatrosses, the waved albatross, and the only tropical penguin, the Galapagos penguin.

PACIFIC MESSENGERS

She will also see the magnificent frigate birds, which range far at sea, and at one time used to carry messages from one Pacific island to another.

The Queen will see less life in the ocean itself—an occasional whale or shark, and perhaps some of the poisonous jellyfish called Portuguese men of war, with their "cails" set, drifting down current. The raft Kon-Tiki, drifting through these waters, made many interesting discoveries, but the Gothic will scare off most sea creatures.

One exciting incident on a Pacific voyage is the traditional ceremony of Crossing the Line.

On the evening before a vessel is due to cross the Equator, minions from King Neptune come "out" of the sea and deliver an ultimatum that all novices not previously admitted to Neptune's Court must be surrendered.

22 miles a minute!

Flashing down from 60,000 feet in a shallow dive, Scott Crossfield, an American Government test pilot, recently attained 1327 m.p.h. while flying a Douglas Skyrocket research plane over the Californian desert. His airspeed was equal to twice that of sound at the height at which he was flying.

As in earlier record-breaking flights, the pencil-like Skyrocket was air-launched at about 32,000 feet from the converted bomb-bay of a B-29 Superfortress. Crossfield then used part of his liquid oxygen-alcohol propellant to zoom up to 60,000 feet before turning on full power for his thrilling dive.

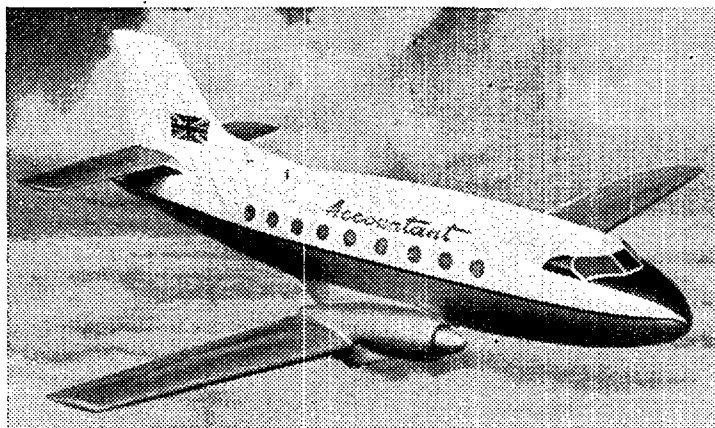
The all-up weight of the Skyrocket when launched is 16,000 lbs. Over 6000 lbs. of this is made up by rocket propellant, which, under full power conditions, is burnt up at the rate of a ton a minute! After its three-minute power run, the plane coasts, then glides into a landing at 150 m.p.h.

NO OFFICIAL RECORD

This new record is not likely to become official, for the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale—the international body responsible for confirming and recording record-breaking flights—has not yet made provision for recognising flights starting with an air-launch.

Scott Crossfield, a 33-year-old pilot of the official National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics is one of three pilots who have many times flown at more than 1000 m.p.h. in the U.S. Navy's Skyrocket. The other two are Lt.-Col. Marion E. Carl, U.S. Marine Corps, who has reached 83,235 feet in the machine, and Douglas chief test pilot Bill Bridgeman, who first flew the Skyrocket in 1948.

PLANES FOR THE SPOTTER'S NOTEBOOK



50. Aviation Traders Accountant

Among the several promising designs for "DC-3 replacements" which have now reached the project stage in the British aircraft industry is the Aviation Traders Accountant.

Of fairly conventional appearance, and not unlike the Dakota, the Accountant will, nevertheless, have a greatly improved all-round performance, and be capable of lifting much bigger loads. A hinged nose section—in which the controls are disconnected to allow the entire flight deck to swing to one side—gives access to the full

width of the pressurised fuselage.

Normal seating capacity is for 22 passengers, but this can be increased to 33. As a freighter it could carry two 14 h.p. cars, and adapted for use as an air-ambulance, it can carry 15 stretcher cases.

Power for the Accountant will be derived from two Rolls-Royce Dart propjets, providing an estimated cruising speed of 310 m.p.h. at 25,000 feet. It is intended to operate over stage lengths of just over 900 miles.

Span: 64 feet; length: 55 feet 6 inches; loaded weight: 21,000 lbs.

ON THE AIR—By Ernest Thomson, our Radio and TV Correspondent

EMPIRE BROADCASTING COMES OF AGE

ON a cold morning 21 years ago the B.B.C. inaugurated Empire Broadcasting from a single short-wave transmitter at Daventry.

It began with five daily services, each of two hours, to Australia, South Africa, India, West Africa, and Canada. Now there are 40 services throughout the 24 hours, many in different languages.

All next week the coming-of-age of the first round-the-world broadcasting service is being celebrated in special programmes from Britain to every Commonwealth country.

The primary aim of Empire Broadcasting has always been to promote understanding and friendship within the Commonwealth. This note was sounded by King George V when, only six days after the opening ceremony on December 19, 1932, he broadcast his first Christmas message to his peoples throughout the world.

By happy chance, the 21st birthday coincides with Queen Elizabeth's Christmas message from Auckland, New Zealand—the first broadcast by the Sovereign from a Commonwealth country overseas.

Healthy and wise

Boys and girls will be "acting" accidents in next week's morning broadcasts to schools. This experiment in Health Week is to show how children can help themselves and each other. Each day, beginning on Monday, health problems encountered by an ordinary family will be dealt with in dramatic sketches.

An insect bite, a bruise, and a cut will all happen in the first Programme. Next day the family will be battling for cleanliness, realising that dirt harbours germs. Dodging infection is the next theme, and the sketches end appropriately on December 17 with Keeping Fit for the Holidays. On the Friday Dr. Stephen Taylor will answer questions.

Through the night sky

THE Night Mail programme on TV this Friday will take viewers to Ringway Airport, near Manchester, where six nights a week two airliners take off to fly mail to Belfast and Dublin. Letters now reach even the remotest villages in Ireland by first post next morning.

TV cameras will operate on the floodlit apron while the mail is being loaded in the B.E.A. plane for Belfast. With Raymond Baxter as commentator, viewers will meet the pilot, Captain Prescott, as he receives his weather report and flight plan, starts his engines, and makes final checks.

On Christmas Eve

LIGHT Programme listeners will be switched across the Atlantic on December 24 for a sound panorama of Christmas in New York. Microphones in the streets and departmental stores will bring crowd noises, and we shall also hear church bells and the voices of carol singers in Madison Square.

Filming wild birds

FILMS showing geese being caught with rocket nets will be televised on Friday when Peter Scott, the well-known naturalist, begins a new monthly TV series of nature programmes. He has just been doing this exciting work



Mr. Peter Scott

in Scotland for the Severn Wild Fowl Trust.

Other wild birds seen by Peter Scott on expeditions to Iceland and South America will also be pictured. Later programmes will include outside broadcasts direct from Slimbridge, on the Severn, where thousands of birds come down in winter from the North.

Television "Cinders"

ROSSINI's opera Cinderella will be one of TV's most brilliant programmes in Christmas week. Producer George Foa tells me he is presenting it in Lime Grove's biggest studio.

Cinderella will be played by Gertrude Holt, who was Hansel



Producer George Foa

when Humperdinck's fairy-tale opera Hansel and Gretel was televised last Christmas.

In Town four nights

MENTION In Town Tonight and most people immediately think of its famous signature tune, the Knightsbridge March by Eric Coates. In Christmas week the B.B.C. will pay tribute to this prolific composer of tuneful melodies.

On each of four nights in the Light Programme, starting on December 21, an hour will be devoted to records of his music.

The composer himself will be in the studio to talk of people and incidents connected with the different tunes

The Children's Newspaper, December 12, 1953

ROUND THE TOWNS—Alan Ivimey goes to the Midlands and visits the Staffordshire city of...

LICHFIELD

IN the long records of Lichfield, Mother of the Midlands, this month marks the celebration of the 400th anniversary of Queen Mary's Charter, granting the city its own Sheriff and separating it from the administration of its county, Staffordshire.

Lichfield is nearly four times as old as its charter. Nevertheless, the sheriffs of some twenty other places, similarly distinguished, were invited to come and honour this event in her long history from as far apart as Norwich and Haverfordwest, Southampton and Berwick-on-Tweed.

This I learned from the Town Clerk at the Guildhall—which was used by a Citizens' Guild as early as the 13th century. It was partly rebuilt a hundred years ago but still has remains of the old city prison.

What makes thousands of visitors from all parts of the world include Lichfield in their tour? Of course it has Dr. Johnson's birthplace and a beautiful cathedral, but there are far more important reasons.

Though anciently dignified with the title of city, it remains a small place. True, it now has a modern Trading Estate with light engineering and furniture works, but this is out in the open to the east. It makes iron castings and pewter-ware, for it has a tradition of producing metalwork that is centuries old, and there is still a Worshipful Company of Smiths.

But what makes Lichfield so attractive, I think, is that it is such a model of an English town. It is a model in its observable history from very old to very new; and also in its list of famous inhabitants and in its layout.

The four chief streets are like the rungs of a ladder. The "supports" are Dam Street and Bird Street—this last the road leading southward to London and northward to Stafford.

Now everyone knows that Lichfield has a fine cathedral; but it is not where you might expect—close to the centre of things. Instead it stands on a slight hill to the north, separated from the market town by a stretch of water which looks like a river but is really a brook spreading out into a series of big pools. These were

useful for breeding fish in the days before quick transport from the coast and cold storage, or canning.

So the three famous spires, the Ladies of the Vale, stand high above the still waters of the Minster Pool and the religious and secular parts of Lichfield are kept apart. In fact, Bird Street and Dam Street both began as narrow causeways to enable the citizens to reach this great House of God. Before that there was only a ferry; the site of the landing stage can still be seen on the north side of the Pool. The lane leading to it led out of Bird Street beside what is now the George Hotel.

I was lucky to meet someone who really knows his city and its story by heart. Mr. P. Laithwaite has taught maths to generations of Lichfield boys, and he explained to me why town and cathedral are thus parted.

WHEN the legions left Britain the Romanised inhabitants of Letocetum (a walled town where the village called Wall now stands,



Dr. Johnson's birthplace in Market Square

two miles south on the Watling Street) fled for their lives before the invading Anglo-Saxons. But they were caught and massacred on Green Hill, near where the big churchyard of St. Michael's, Lichfield, now stands.

With the passing years, this spot became a holy place and a national burial ground. So St. Chad, who founded the bishopric at Lichfield, took advantage of its fame and built his first church nearby at Stowe.

But when it came to building a great cathedral the builders decided to take advantage of a rocky ridge on the far side of the line of

stream and ponds and marshes in the valley.

Thus the market grew up near Green Hill on one side of the valley and the cathedral on the other. And every Whit Monday there is still a fair known as Greenhill Bower, thought to be a relic of the ancient feast in honour of those early folk who perished in the massacre, fifteen centuries ago.

You can still walk along the site of the old road which the citizens had to take before the causeways were built. It has to go round a much bigger sheet of water called Stowe Pool, and at the far end you find St. Chad's Church.

You also find a well which marks a spring of water in which St. Chad, first Bishop of Lichfield in Mercia, the Middle or Midland Kingdom of Saxon England, baptised the natives.

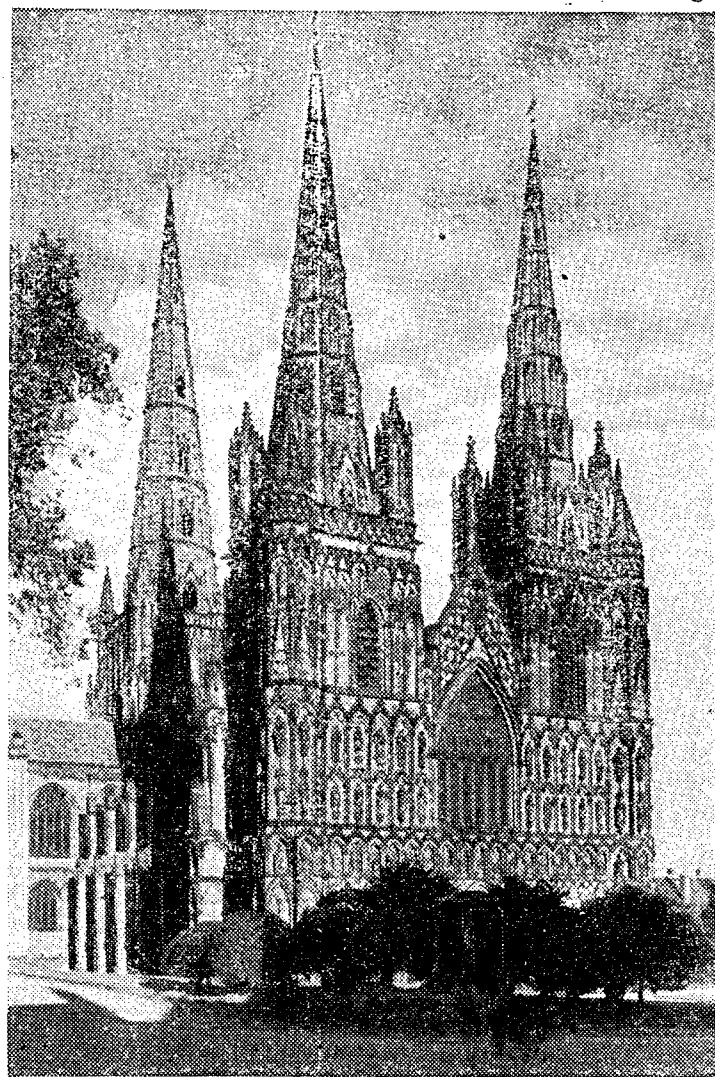
THE Cathedral Close has some fine old houses and a four-sided sundial as tall as a market cross. It can be seen how this Close could have been defended, as it was in the Civil War.

In those days it was protected by a strong wall with bastions and a moat, but it was twice besieged and captured by the Parliament and once by the King. On a house in Dam Street, about 250 yards from the cathedral, is a plaque saying that a Parliamentary general was hit by a bullet here fired by a marksman who had stationed himself on the cathedral tower "for the annoyance of the besiegers."

A little farther down this street is Quonian's Lane. Here you find roofs and odd corners bristling with heads of saints in wood and stone, lions rampant, and other pieces of carving. For here is a big workshop of craftsmen making pews and fonts and statuary groups just as they did when the cathedral and two parish churches were built. Now their work goes all over the world.

AT the corner of this lane is the modest house of Dame Oliver's school, where Samuel Johnson first learned his letters.

His birthplace and home are on a corner of the market-place. Here



Lichfield Cathedral with its three graceful spires, known far and wide as the Ladies of the Vale



James Boswell's statue in the Market Square

the great man was born in 1709. His father kept a bookshop in this house which is now a place of literary pilgrimage.

Dr. Johnson's statue has replaced the old Market Cross opposite, but the general air of the place would be still recognisable to the great man, though he would be amused to find, at the far end, a statue to his biographer, Boswell, with a most pronounced turned-up nose.

The home of David Garrick, with whom Samuel Johnson took the road to London and to fame, has now gone but the old grammar school building they attended is still there, though it is now used as Council Offices.

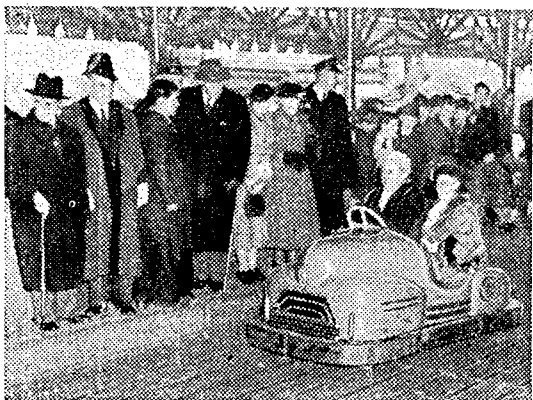
Lichfield, as I have said, is the model of an English town. In a few minutes you can be walking among fields as Johnson did, following his favourite stroll

beside Stowe Pool to the two houses, still standing near St. Chad's, where "the ladies of Stow Hill" lived. (One of them was Mrs. Gastrell, widow of the Stratford-on-Avon clergyman who "with Gothick barbarity" cut down the mulberry tree in Shakespeare's garden.)

Once every summer the Sheriff, authorised by Queen Mary's Charter, must ride the city bounds.

This, the Town Clerk told me, makes a very pleasant jaunt of about twenty miles and is quite an event. Thus old and new go along together.

THE motto on the City Arms is still the three Latin words which Johnson put in his famous Dictionary in the reference to Lichfield: *Salve Magna Parens*—May it be well with you, mighty mother.



A Mayor of Lichfield enjoys the fun of a fair



The absorbing work of a church woodcarver

Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House
Whitefriars · London · EC4
DECEMBER 12 1953

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

DECEMBER 10 is Human Rights Day, the fifth anniversary of the United Nations' adoption of the Declaration of Human Rights; and the significance of this day is well expressed by the design of the U.N.



stamp which has been specially issued for the occasion.

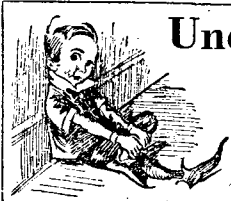
The hands reaching towards a flame symbolise

that the Declaration is still an aspiration rather than a law. For, alas, in many parts of the world the essential rights of the individual are still all too often disregarded.

This aspiration springs from men's modest ideals. And its realisation depends not on governments alone, but on the concern each one of us has for the rights of others.

We have to learn to apply human rights to everything in our daily lives—at home, at school, at work, at play. Respect for others at all times is the mark of a civilised people.

We can all best observe the sacredness of human rights by obeying Christ's teaching: *And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.*



Under the Editor's Table

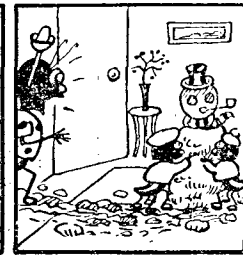
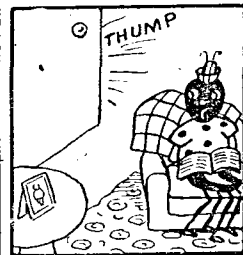
PETER PUCK
WANTS TO
KNOW

If ballet dancers
get on by leaps
and bounds

Some people never wear extra clothes in winter. Perhaps they are wrapped up in themselves.

A boy's picture at an exhibition caught the judge's eye. No harm done, we hope.

BILLY BEETLE



UNCLE BILL

A TRUE friend of children is 26-year-old Corporal William Green of the R.A.S.C., who is going back to Korea to keep his promise to 50 war orphans.

Having originally found them, hungry and uncared-for, in a shattered building in Seoul, he and his comrades used to visit them every evening and make life happier for them. He was Uncle Bill to them all.

The day came when Uncle Bill was ordered back to England, but at home at Angmering, in Sussex, he lectured in the Sunday school about his Korean orphan friends, and started an appeal for clothes to send to them. He also applied to be sent back to his old unit in Korea.

There will be many smiling faces in Seoul when this great-hearted young man turns up again. Uncle Bill will be there once more to lend a helping hand to all his young friends in need.

Family garland

WE cannot resist quoting this prize-winning entry in a names' competition run by the Women's Institute in their magazine, Home and Country.

"Some years ago a lady walking along the sands at Sheringham, Norfolk, saw seven children curiously alike building a sand castle. On making inquiries she found they were sisters whose names were Myrtle, Daisy, Violet, Veronica, Jasmine, Scilla, and Marguerite.

"Their mother sat a short distance from them. She said her surname was Plant, her maiden name Root. Her mother's maiden name was Lief, and her grandmother's maiden name Tentril. 'And this,' she said, holding a baby boy of two years, 'is Sweet William'."

A delightful story! Well and truly does it deserve the magazine's description—"most fragrant."

There is money in food, says a café owner. And he was not thinking of sixpences in Christmas puddings.

Some children are late at school because they miss the bus. When they get there they catch it.

Many people are still superstitious about walking under a ladder. They should try to get over it.

He did not know all the angles

A NEW SOUTH WALES school-boy wrote to the Australian Prime Minister petitioning him to ban geometry in schools.

He stated that most of the boys in his class found it too difficult, and that he thought it a waste of time.

"Every time we think of geometry and its many problems we feel perspiration on our foreheads," added the letter.

Mr. Menzies replied to the boy, agreeing with him that geometry is a hard subject, but adding that it is also a most useful one.

Outsize



This shoe is more than ten feet long and weighs 12 cwt. It was made by Josef Schrott of Oberstdorf, in Germany.

Bicycle made for two

A SPEAKER on the Moscow radio the other day was enthusiastic about a "new" kind of bicycle.

"The so-called tandem," he said, "is particularly interesting. This bicycle has two wheels like an ordinary one, but it has two sets of handlebars and two seats. Two people can ride it."

Our grandparents sang—and still sometimes sing—about the bicycle made for two that Daisy's young man thought would make them an ideal and economical wedding carriage.

Russian cyclists would appear to have been missing a lot of fun.

Thirty Years Ago

From the Children's Newspaper,
December 15, 1923

So many whales have been caught in the Arctic seas in recent years that there are hardly any left.

When their numbers became very small, the attention of whalers was turned to the South Seas, and the hunting of these monsters began in earnest near the Falkland Islands.

There is a great danger now that the whales of the South will, like those of the North, become almost extinct, and an expedition is to be sent out, at the request of the Government of the Falkland Islands, to try to learn as much as possible of the habits of the whales.

Captain Scott's famous ship the Discovery is now being equipped for this expedition.

JUST AN IDEA

As Heraclitus wrote: To him who hopes not, the unhelped-for will never come.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS

EARLIER this year a tornado swept over the city of Flint (Michigan), U.S.A. and destroyed nearly every house in the suburb of Beecher Township. Since then an enthusiastic volunteer band of 5000 private citizens from Flint have been working hard in their spare-time to repair the damage.

In one weekend the volunteers rebuilt 80 houses and repaired at least 100 more. Building firms supplied tools and machines free of charge, and restaurants served hot food to the workers.

As for the stricken inhabitants of Beecher Township, they have welcomed these good neighbours as a "blessing from Heaven."

Guide to success

QUALITIES needed by a boy to become a manager in business are set out in a report of an inquiry by the Leeds Chamber of Commerce.

Some 168 firms of various kinds sent replies to a questionnaire, and a summary of them states that "Personality and character are usually a better guide to ultimate success in management than academic qualifications."

There can be few employers who would dispute this view. Those same qualities are essential for success in any sphere.

Think on These Things

JOSIAH was eight years old when he became King of Israel. Ten years later he resolved to lead his people in a return to the faith which had long been neglected.

The Temple of God was repaired, and the King sent Shaphan to the priest Hilkiah to collect the money given by the people to pay the workmen and the bills for materials.

Shaphan returned to the King with a long-lost book that workmen had found while making the repairs (Kings 2, chapter 22). It was the book of God's law.

The King then ordered that it should be explained to him and to the people. He knew that only evil could come from neglect of God's word. F. P.

C. D. D.

The Children's Newspaper, December 12, 1953

THEY SAY . . .

THE good in the world works like leaven in bread—slowly, quietly, and surely towards an end.

Very Revd. Dr. G. Johnstone Jeffery

BRITONS are probably less discriminating about food than any other people in the world.

Lord Silkin

BOYS are doing more shopping, household chores, and baby-sitting than ever before.

Dr. A. Macalister-Brew,
to youth club leaders

I DON'T think English people realise what marvellous countryside they have. The whole country is quite unbeatable in autumn.

Sir Edmund Hillary

TELEVISION, with its technical and social limitations, will no more kill the film than it will kill the theatre.

Mr. Beverley Baxter, M.P.

QUEEN VICTORIA used to travel from London to Balmoral in a journey occupying the best part of 24 hours. In 1954 we are promised a journey from London to Sydney in 24 flying hours.

An Australian M.P.

Out and About

IT is pleasant to walk through the wood on a calm, damp winter day.

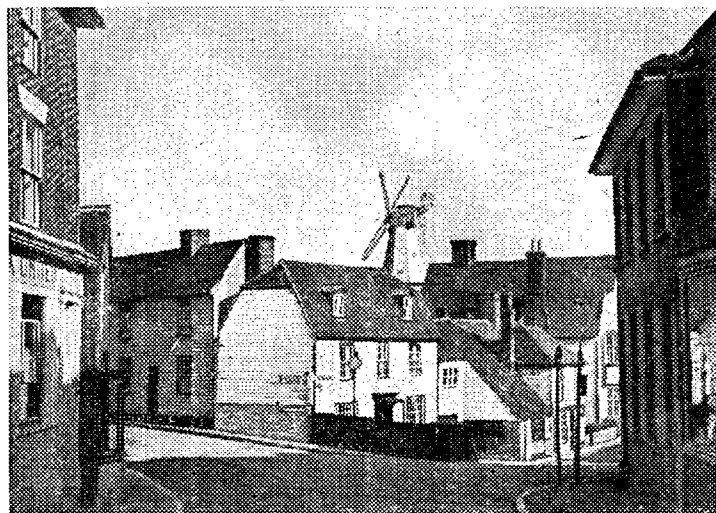
If sunshine has taken off the chill in the air you notice at once the smell of the soil and the dead leaves; and under that thick brown carpet some of the small animals that hibernate, including hedgehogs and dormice, may already have made their winter shelter.

Without foliage, the tree trunks and branches stand out plain, full of character. The shapely ash, the sturdy oak, the lofty beech and elm, are all distinct.

There are new colours, too, of green or golden lichen on the boles, and the often vivid toadstools.

Do you know that the toadstools growing on the roots of some trees suck water through the hair-cells they push out and pass it into the tree? This is especially useful to the oak, for it often has hardly any root hairs in the soil.

C. D. D.



OUR HOMELAND

In the village of
Cranbrook, Kent

The Children's Newspaper, December 12, 1953

Let THE HUT MAN be your guide to Nature's . . .

HIDDEN HAUNTS

12. In a fir planting

CHRISTMAS CARDS impress on us that December is a month of snow, but when snow falls during this last month of the year it is usually slight, and often a sleety mixture of snow, rain, and high winds. The true falls of deep and lasting snow come in the early months of the new year.

A white Christmas is a pleasant Christmas, however, so let us imagine a countryside lying hushed and sparkling after a heavy snow-fall, the hedges supporting great waves of spotless drifts, and the trees laden with soft plumes under which the branches droop as though to shed their loads on the white carpet below.

To what hidden haunts of the wild creatures should we go on such an afternoon? There is none so magical, so like a fairy-land transformed from a familiar corner of yesterday, as a little clearing in a planting of young fir trees.

At the risk of a branch-load of snow down our collars, let us crawl under one of these trees—true Christmas trees in the setting in which they look their best. There we shall find a secluded hide where the ground is free of snow, dry and soft and springy with a covering of fir-needle leaves. And there we can sit looking out on a living Christmas card—on a snow-covered clearing with here and there little islands of grasses and dead foxglove stems showing like autumn islands in a sea of winter.

WHEN the clearing has forgotten us its inhabitants begin to appear, little actors in this stage-setting of Nature. From the fir tree wings a rabbit or hare limps through the snow, flicking the glittering crystals from its legs, leaving one of the best-known animal tracks of the countryside.

A little band of winter gnats dance their erratic dance in the sunshine between the tree-tops, and a robin, flitting from branch to branch, sends tiny snow cascades falling with tinkling ice crystals.

Then a small brown bird with

white breast appears low down on a nearby trunk, and with business-like zigzag pace runs up the bole, energetically searching every crack and cranny in the bark. A tree-creeper on an insect-hunt is always interesting to watch, for its progress is more like that of an enterprising mouse than a bird. With its slender, curved bill each discovered insect is picked out as with a pair of forceps, and when branches begin to impede upward climbing the searcher flits to the foot of an adjoining trunk and the climb begins all over again.

A SMALL rustling draws our attention to the tree alongside our own, and there on the fir-needle carpet we see a wood-mouse just emerged from the neat mossy front door of her burrow among the roots.

How very dainty and almost summery she looks as she sits there, fluttering nose between paws as white as the surrounding snow, while her big eyes survey the neighbourhood with seeming surprise.

It is as though she had just come up from a winter sleep and was rather startled at the change that had taken place during the night. With active skips she scurries here and there among the fir leaves, right to where the snow edges her little domain like a frozen tide; then, disgusted with the poor outlook for a meal above-ground, she scuttles to her doorway again and disappears, and we hope that she was able to cram her store-rooms before the snow-fall closed her market for the time being.

So they come and go, these small inhabitants of this fir planting, and many exciting and intimate glimpses we have of them as we look out from our hidden haunt below the tree.

SNOW is for us the perfect Christmas setting with its promise of sledging and snow-fights, but for the small creatures of the wayside and woodland it is but another handicap to be cheerfully faced and skilfully overcome.

CinemaScope makes its bow

By the CN Film Correspondent

FOR a year or so the cinema world has been talking about little else but third-dimensional films and wide-screen films.

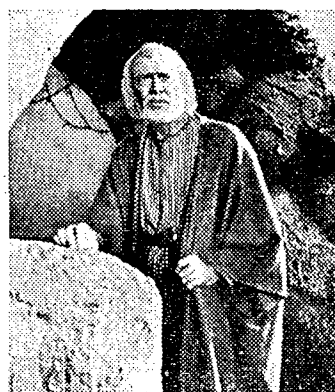
Now along comes CinemaScope. This is a system of throwing films onto the screen so that they give a very wide panoramic view and an illusion that the figures moving on it are "in the round." No glasses are needed to view it.

It is all done by using a very wide, rather shallow, and slightly curved screen, with special lenses on the projector. When CinemaScope pictures are shot the cameras have a new type of lens which "squeezes" a wide angle of vision into films of standard size, making the images look tall and thin.

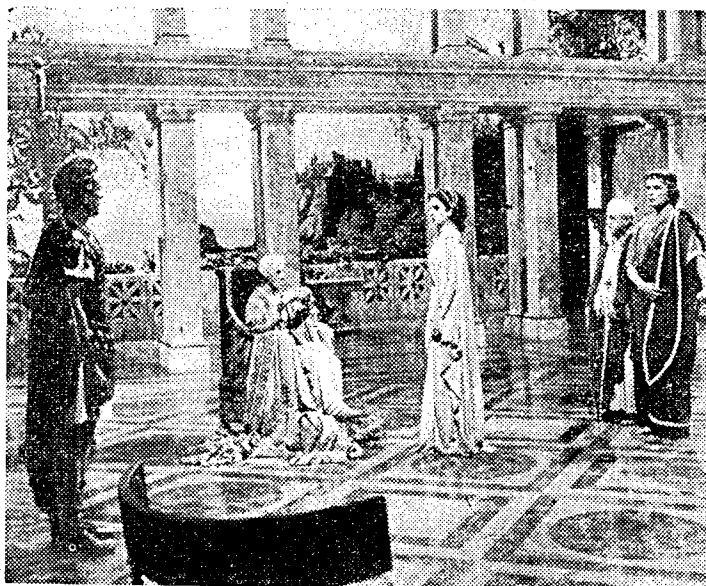
Projecting the pictures through another special lens restores them to their natural proportions. To match this new pictorial effect we have also stereophonic sound recording, which means that when

was in charge of the Crucifixion. He was a handsome, rebellious, wealthy young Roman named Marcellus Gallio.

To him the Crucifixion was only his last duty as an officer in Jerusalem, the execution of "an agitator." Even so, he was repelled by the grim task, and drank and



Dean Jagger as Justus



Richard Burton as Marcellus Gallio, Ernest Thesiger as Emperor Tiberius, and Jean Simmons as Diana

a figure moves over to the right on the screen and speaks, the sound seems to come from the right.

The first CinemaScope film, *The Robe*, is based on the novel by Lloyd C. Douglas, who re-wrote some of the Bible stories as long, modern novels.

The Robe is the story of the Roman officer, the Tribune, who

gambled during those dark and tragic hours on Calvary.

The Roman soldiers cast lots for the dark red robe that Jesus wore, and the young Marcellus won it. Contemptuously he threw it to his servant, the Greek slave Demetrius.

Now Demetrius, unknown to his Roman master, had been converted to Christianity by seeing

Jesus on that first Palm Sunday as he rode into Jerusalem. He took the Robe and cared for it.

Then the film traces the influence of the Robe on Marcellus, Demetrius, and Diana, the girl whom Marcellus loves. The young Roman officer seizes the Robe from his servant as the great storm lashes the hill of Calvary after the Third Hour.

It has a swift and extraordinary effect on him. He seems to suffer a shock, a fit of near-madness.

Back in his homeland he is told that the only way to cure the strange melancholy that has overtaken him is to go back to Palestine to seek out the Robe—and destroy it. And with it, the subtle Romans hope, the strange new sect calling themselves Christians.

Instead, Marcellus, the Tribune, becomes a Christian himself. With the apostle Simon called Peter he secretly returned to Rome, where by now there was a new Emperor, the old rival of Marcellus named Caligula, a crazy tyrant.

In the end Caligula brings Marcellus to trial before his family and the rich Roman court. This sinister despot has two motives: to rid himself of Marcellus as a rival for the love of the beautiful young Roman girl Diana, and to crush the ever-increasing Christians for ever.

But Marcellus and Diana remain steadfast and go out together to face martyrdom.

In the film Richard Burton, the young British actor, who is now at London's Old Vic Theatre, plays Marcellus. It is a strong, compelling study of toughness and tenderness. Jean Simmons, it must be admitted, has little to do except look beautiful. Victor Mature as Demetrius the slave has many moving moments.

And the CinemaScope effects? In the scenes in Rome and Jerusalem, with crowds moving and legions marching, they are indeed spectacular. The Crucifixion scenes are portrayed with reverence.

To see *The Robe* is an unusual and stimulating experience. It may be the first of "the films of the future."

Empire Mosaic—47

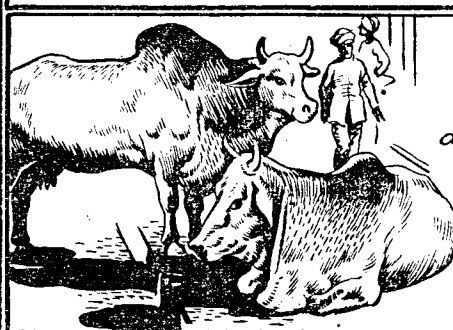
by Ridgway



SOLOMON ISLANDS SUNSHADE

Worn by Solomon Islanders when out in their canoes, this sunshade is made of plaited palm-leaves.

ONE PEPPERCORN
During the Second World War, Queen Salote of Tonga leased to the United Kingdom many acres of land for an airfield. The rent asked for was one peppercorn per year.



SACRED COWS OF INDIA

Cows are sacred animals to the Hindus of India, who never eat beef. Certain privileged cows are allowed to wander about busy streets at will and are never disturbed.



WEST AFRICAN ARTISTS

The natives of the British Cameroons are highly skilled in the arts of wood carving and pottery.

SURVEY OF DURHAM

The recently-published account of Durham (Hodder & Stoughton, 15s.) is the 41st and crowning volume of the celebrated King's England series of county books.

More than 20 years ago Arthur Mee embarked on the project of exploring England anew and telling the story of each city and town, village, and hamlet. Alas, he did not live to see it completed, and it has been left to others to fulfil his plans.

Most of us who do not dwell between the Tyne and Tees usually think only of a magnificent cathedral if Durham is mentioned. But what do they know of Durham County who only Durham City know? Little enough, as is revealed in the pages of this book, which faithfully follows the pattern designed by Arthur Mee.

CONTRASTS

Durham is a county of marked contrasts and fascinating variety. Its eastern region is one of the nation's great workshops—half the county is a coalfield—yet on its western moorlands it is possible to walk for miles without passing a single cottage.

This book shows it all to us. It also tells of the men of this northern county who have played a doughty part in England's story—of men like Bede, the Father of English learning, and inventors and pioneers who built up the nation's prosperity.

Altogether this simply-written and well-illustrated survey of Durham admirably rounds off a series which has an established place in English topography.

TOYS ON PARADE

A splendid parade of toys is one of the spectacular scenes planned for Humpty Dumpty on Ice, the pantomime which opens next week at the Empire Pool, Wembley.

Skaters will be dressed as teddy bears, poodles, cats, lambs, dolls, and spinning tops. In addition there will be a giant doll's house with furniture to match.

Sporting Flashbacks

TOURING THE WEST INDIES AS AN ENGLAND CRICKETER IN 1929-30.

ANDY SANDHAM
—FAMOUS SURREY BATSMAN—
WAS SO TROUBLED BY SORE TOES IN THE FINAL TEST THAT HE BORROWED A LARGE PAIR OF SHOES FROM PATSY HENDREN (MIDDLESEX)

DESPITE THE HANDICAP SANDHAM HIT UP 325 (TEST RECORD AT THAT TIME) —BUT HE NEARLY LOST HIS WICKET WHEN A SHOE FLEW OFF WHILE RUNNING A QUICK SINGLE



THE YOUNGEST PLAYER WHO HAS EVER APPEARED IN LEAGUE FOOTBALL, **ALBERT GELDARD**, WAS ONLY 15 YEARS, 156 DAYS WHEN HE TOOK THE FIELD FOR BRADFORD V. MILLWALL IN SEPT. 1929. HE WAS TRAINING WITH THE BRADFORD PLAYERS AT THE AGE OF 12



PLAYING FOR NEW ZEALAND V. CORNWALL DURING THE FIRST "ALL BLACKS" TOUR (AT CAMBORNE, 1905) **W.J. WALLACE** SCORED A TRY WHILE WEARING A LARGE SUN HAT

THE MYSTERY OF THE PILTDOWN MAN

For scores of Sussex schoolboys, Piltown is a favourite bathing haunt in high summer. For many young naturalists it is the site of a big pond where interesting rare birds—like the occasional migrating osprey—sometimes join the resident swans. For scientists it is the centre of a most baffling mystery story.

Chapter One. This opened in 1911, when an Uckfield solicitor, Mr. Charles Dawson, announced his discovery of a human skull and jaw reckoned by archaeologists to be at least 500,000 years old. A relic of the most Ancient Briton of all, it was handed into the safe keeping of the British Museum of Natural History and given the name *Eoanthropus* (Dawn Man) Dawsoni.

Chapter Two opened in 1949, when scientists carried out important tests on the fluorine content of the skull, revealing its age. These tests pointed to the skull being less ancient than had been believed—perhaps 50,000 years old—and the jaw merely that of a modern ape!

Chapter Three. More tests, carried out in recent weeks, have shown that though the brain-box of the Piltown Man may well be 50,000 years old, the canine

tooth and large fragment of jawbone are those of a modern ape; they could have belonged either to a chimpanzee or an orang.

Chapter Four. The scientists of the British Museum and Oxford University who carried out the tests, argue that The Piltown Man is a forgery. They say that he is the outcome of an astonishing hoax carried out with superb skill by someone who went to the trouble of filing the tooth—in order to mislead the experts—and that the jawbone was deliberately stained to match the rest of the skull.

Chapter Five. Mr. Alvan Marston, the dental surgeon and anthropologist who discovered the 300,000-year-old Swanscombe Man

ROBIN HOOD TAKES TO THE AIR

A new squadron crest has been approved for 664 Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, which is based at Hucknall, Nottinghamshire.

It shows Robin Hood with bow and arrow, and the motto *Vae Viso*, which may be translated "I've espied it; woe betide it." The squadron covers the Sherwood Forest area.

in Kent (proved to be entirely genuine) questions the findings of the scientists at the British Museum. He holds that the human skull and the ape's jaw are both relics of great antiquity which came together by chance and not as the outcome of a deliberate hoax.

"If any faking had been done," he told the News Chronicle, "it could only have been by the late Mr. Charles Dawson or the late Sir Arthur Smith Woodward (of the British Museum) and that is simply unthinkable."

Chapter Six. When a C.N. correspondent discussed the matter with Piltown residents who recall the find, over 40 years ago, he found everyone agreed that neither of the distinguished men who were concerned in the original discovery could possibly have hatched this strange plot to confuse their fellow scientists.

"They were charming and learned men and it is impossible to believe that they could have had anything to do with such a foolish and dishonest hoax," declared one local resident.

So who did carry out this hoax—if it was a hoax? Alas, Chapter Seven, which might answer these questions, may never be written.

NEW HOSPITAL ON HISTORIC GROUND

The memory of David Livingstone inspires eager builders—black and white—at Chitambo mission, in Northern Rhodesia. A new hospital is rising not far from the very place where the great missionary-explorer died just 80 years ago.

This venture is truly a labour of love. Doctors and missionaries spend long hours directing the work. Local natives volunteered to collect wood-fuel for making 400,000 bricks, to quarry sand and stone, and to dig foundations.

Headmen offered 10s. from their pay; carpenters and bricklayers laboured for five days without wages.

Other contributions came from farther afield—regions traversed and mapped nearly a century ago by Livingstone. Always with him as he faced the sun-scorched bush and marshes of the Chitambo region was his simple medicine chest; now the most up-to-date medical and surgical equipment can succour tribesmen.

THE FINAL HALT

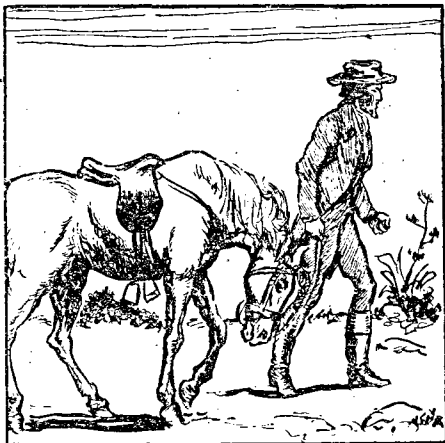
One hospital foundation-stone is inscribed "Laid by a descendant of the chief of Chitambo." To that black ruler's little village Livingstone was carried by faithful porters in 1873, weak from fever.

There are few more moving stories than of this final halt in desolate territory. Early one morning Susi and Chuma, the doctor's devoted servants, found "the great master" dead where he had knelt to pray in candlelight.

Slave-raiders scattered Chitambo's villagers, and when in 1907 the Church of Scotland decided to found a mission on the historic spot, the locality was mosquito ridden and deserted. Thus the mission stands 50 miles to the south.

Grandsons of the amiable Ilala people who sorrowed for the indomitable missionary are now helping white men to build the new hospital. Livingstone would have rejoiced at this example of true racial partnership.

THE AFRICAN JOURNEYS OF MUNGO PARK—picture-story of a famous explorer (6)



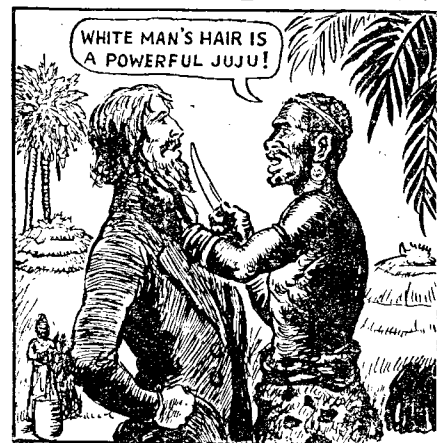
Mungo had escaped the Moors but was in a desperate plight. He was alone with a half-starved horse in an unknown, waterless region. He might have tried to return to the coast and the English trading post there, but he was determined to reach the Niger River. Fainting with thirst, the indomitable explorer staggered on through the dusty scrub, leading his horse, which was now too weak to carry him.



Later he heard the welcome sound of frogs croaking, and found some muddy pools that were swarming with the creatures. He and his horse drank greedily. But he was still terribly hungry and, seeing some smoke, he went towards it and came to a village. But he had nothing with which to buy food, the Moors having taken all his possessions. The village headman refused to give him so much as a handful of corn.



As he left the village he saw a motherly-looking woman at the door of her hut, and he made signs to her that he was hungry. She asked him, in Arabic, to come in, and gave him a dish of boiled corn and some corn for his horse. All he could give her in return was his handkerchief. Next day he travelled on, and some shepherds gave him dates, and on the following days other kindly natives fed him.



At one place his host asked for a lock of his hair, believing that white men's hair, worn as a charm, would give him all the knowledge they possessed! This gave Mungo an idea for buying food in the future—so long as he did not have too many hair-cuts! Then eight Negroes on horseback, fugitives from the Moors, arrived at the village, and offered to take Mungo with them to a distant town.

Alone and unarmed, how will Mungo fare with these travellers? See next week's instalment

The Children's Newspaper, December 12, 1953

Continuing

DANGER MOUNTAIN

by Patrick Pringle

Jack and Robin Hilton are with their parents in Switzerland and go skiing with a Swiss girl, Junge, whose father, Rudi, is a ski instructor. They go up Danger Mountain and the boys discover forgers in a chalet in a wood. They are captured and one of the forgers—an Englishman named Harry—puts them in a room with a man whom they recognise as Otto.

15. Wooden prison

"THOUGHT you'd be pleased to see 'im," said Harry. He was carrying an oil-lamp, and walked in and held it over the man on the floor. "Two friends to see you, Otto," he said. He had to shout to make himself heard above the noise of the dynamo. "You won't find 'im much company, 'e don't talk English," he told the boys.

He put the oil-lamp by the dynamo, which stood in the middle of the room.

"Better not muck about with that," he said, pointing to the dynamo. "It's only a little 'un, but it makes enough volts to see you two off."

Then he went out and slammed and locked the door.

The boys looked round. It was smaller than the other room. It had no windows, there was only the one door, and no furniture of any kind. Only the dynamo stood in the middle, and beside it a small oil-stove which gave out little heat. The light from this added to the feeble glow of the oil-lamp, and more light came from the door, which fitted badly at the bottom and sides.

Jack peered through the cracks, and saw Harry and Pierre working at the printing press. He picked up the oil-lamp and drew Robin to the other side of the dynamo. He put his mouth close to his brother's ears and spoke in ordinary tones.

Buzzer trap

"If Junge comes and calls out for us, or if the burglar alarm goes off, shout as hard as you can," he said. "Tell her to get away quickly and fetch Rudi. Got it?"

"Yes. Is that buzzer the alarm?"

"It must be. That's how they caught me. When Junge gets back and finds we've gone she may come up here and investigate, and get caught the same way."

Jack went back to the door and peered through again. Harry and Pierre were still working at the printing press. He straightened up and held the oil-lamp higher, so that they could see more of the room.

"Couldn't we try to get out?" suggested Robin. "I've got my clasp knife."

"There isn't a chance." Jack went all round the walls, tapping the wood. "You'd need an axe to get through this."

Robin had gone to one of the corners opposite the door.

"I say, it's all wet here," he said.

Jack went over to join him. He



"I just can't do it," said Robin stretching upwards.

put his hand on the floor and then the walls.

"It's coming from above," he said. "The roof must be leaking." He held the lamp as high as he could reach.

"It is leaking," said Robin. "It looks like a hole up there."

Jack judged that the room was about ten feet high.

"Get up on my shoulders," he said. "You may be able to reach."

He put down the lamp and stooped to let Robin climb up. Then, steadying himself against the wall, he rose slowly.

ENGLISH COINS

1. Ancient Britons

THE coins of the Ancient Britons show that they possessed some artistic culture. The very earliest, about 175 B.C., were of tin and had a crude sketch of the Greek God Apollo, and, on the other side the rough outlines of a bull, copying the types of coins of Marseilles.

Early in the first century B.C. a new type of coin appeared. This was a copy of a Greek coin bearing the head of Apollo with a laurel wreath and, on the other side,



a two-horse chariot. On the Ancient British imitation only the laurel wreath and one of the horses can be recognised.

The coins of King Cunobelin, the Old King Cole of legend, are like those of the early Roman Empire. On his silver coin (shown above) CVNO is part of his name and CAMV is for Camulodunum (Colchester), his capital.

"I just can't do it," said Robin, stretching upwards as far as he could.

Jack grasped his brother's ankles and tried to lift him higher, but the effort was too great.

"There's a gap, all right," said Robin, when he got down again. "I just managed to touch it. And the wood wobbled."

"Wobbled?"

"Felt loose."

Jack stared up, and then looked round to see if there was anything they could use to reach it.

"What about standing on Otto?" suggested Robin.

"He looks pretty well tied down." Jack held the light up again, and moved nearer the man. "With chains, not ropes. And he's handcuffed. I don't reckon we could get him free if we wanted, and I'm not sure I want to."

"I expect they're the handcuffs he pinched off the policeman," said Robin, and giggled.

"I wish we could speak to him, though," Jack bent down over the man. "No speak English?" he asked.

Otto stared blankly at him.

"Parlez-vous français?" Jack asked, wondering if it would help much if the answer was yes.

"Parlo italiano," offered Otto.

"That's no help," said Robin. "I wish Junge was here."

"I hope she won't be. I wish she'd come, though."

"What's the time?"

"A quarter past three."

"Gosh, is that all! It seems days since we left the hotel. Perhaps she's just walking about looking for us."

"I don't think so," said Jack. "She'd be bound to see our tracks down there. It's more likely that she rang up Rudi from the power station, and he told her to stay there while he came to take us off himself."

Words with Otto

They went back to the door and looked again at the men by the printing press.

"We found the forgers, anyway," said Jack. "Pretty clever idea, really. Choosing an out-of-the-way spot like this, and making their own electricity to run the plant."

"Who do you think the Chief is?"

"I'm not sure. I've an idea—two ideas. If we could talk to Otto we might get the right answer."

"I don't see where he comes into it at all. Unless he was in the gang and tried to double-cross them."

"It may be that," Jack paused. "I wish we could get him to tell us who rescued him from prison. If I knew that I think I could fill in the rest."

"I don't see how. Still, let's try him. Don't you know the German for 'prison'?"

Continued on page 10

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SPORTS SHORTS

JILL ROOK, 17-year-old Surrey table tennis star, has shown herself to be one of our most promising young players. Her performance in the English Open championships, where she won the girls' singles and doubles titles and reached the semi-final round of the women's singles and doubles events, has won her selection for her first senior international, in the match with Scotland.

BOB MORTON, the Luton Town half-back, had a memorable Saturday not long ago. Married in the morning, he was chosen to skipper the team in the afternoon, made his 100th consecutive appearance, and led his team to victory.

CHARLIE MITTEN is Fulham's famous outside-left. His son, John, is following in father's footsteps, for he is outside-left in his school team (Beverley) and in the Surbiton and Kingston Schools representative eleven.

JORN GEVERT, a young athlete from Chile, has come to this country to serve a two-year apprenticeship in the steel trade. He also hopes to enhance the reputation as a hurdler he has made in Chile by competing in our major events next summer.

CHARLES BARKER, Edgware Town left-back, has taken 157 penalty kicks during his career in amateur football, and has missed only seven of them—a truly fine record.

AN electronic counting machine in the Newcastle United board room shows that spectators enter St. James's Park at the rate of 1000 every 55 seconds during the peak period.

WALLY HAYWARD, 45-year-old South African distance runner, has returned to his own country after setting up new London to Brighton and Bath to London records, and then covering 159 miles 562 yards in 24 hours. This amazing performance beat the 22-year-old record by over seven miles. Derek Reynolds, the 39-year-old Blackheath Harrier, also beat the previous record with a distance of 154 miles 1226 yards.

ANOTHER well-known Australian Test cricketer who will play in English County cricket is Colin McCool, former Queensland all-rounder, who has been engaged by Somerset. Until he completes his residential qualification, McCool will continue to play for East Lancashire, in league cricket.

FOURTEEN years after completing his cricket career with Middlesex, C. I. J. Smith (Big Jim) has been awarded £1250 by the County Club. The war deprived him of a benefit at a time when he was one of the most popular cricketers in the country because of his carefree hitting and his fast bowling.

COPIES of a mug made in 1740 by Paul de Lamerie, a famous silversmith, and engraved with a picture of the urn containing the Ashes, will be presented to the English cricketers who played against Australia last summer.

DAVID GLASENBURY, 17-year-old Plumstead swimmer, has been awarded the Parker trophy for the best performance of the year by a Kent swimmer. David, as reported in the C.N., achieved the amazing record of winning all the Kent junior titles in 1952, and all five senior titles for which he competed this year.

DANGER MOUNTAIN

Continued from page 9

"No. I don't know 'rescue,' either."

"What about 'set free'? 'Free'—it's the same word, isn't it?"

"Frei, I think. Yes, that's it." Jack was suddenly more hopeful.

"I don't know what 'set' is, though."

"Well, 'make,' then."

"Machen. That's it. And 'who' is wer, and 'you' is Sie—"

"Come on, then. Let's try him with that."

They went back to Otto, and Jack gave him a smile.

"Wer—machen—Sie—frei?" said Jack, very slowly.

Whether Otto understood or not, he gave them an answer. It was rapid and voluble, and they did not understand a word.

"Dad says you get that trouble with the phrase-books," said Robin. "They tell you how to ask the questions, but people never give the right answers."

Jack tried again. This time Otto did not answer at all.

"Perhaps he doesn't understand," said Robin.

Jack made a third attempt. Otto stared at him, and then spat.

"He doesn't like us," said Robin, moving out of range.

Jack did not give up easily.

"Kamerad," he said to Otto. "Freund." He pointed to the door.

"Nicht freund. What's 'enemy'?" he asked Robin.

"Don't know. Try 'bad man.'"

"I don't know what 'bad' is."

Jack paused, and then had an inspiration. "Nicht gut mann," he said, pointing again at the door.

Then he pointed to Otto himself. "Sie und uns, gut." He tried to shake Otto's handcuffed hands.

"Wer machen Sie frei—von Polizei?" he added after another brainwave.

Otto stared again. Then:

"Anton," he said.

"Anton! The ski instructor?" asked Jack excitedly.

"Der Skilehrer."

Otto added a good deal more, but Jack and Robin were not even trying to listen.

"It's beginning to make sense," said Jack. "Anton—" He broke off suddenly.

"The buzzer," said Robin unnecessarily.

The dynamo stopped, and the lights in the next room suddenly went out.

"Junge," said Jack. "Junge!" he shouted, and Robin joined in. "Go away! Run! Danger! Fetch Rudi! Look out for Husky!"

To be continued

The Children's Newspaper, December 12, 1953

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THE BRAN TUB

DISAPPEARING TRICK

"JOHNNY!" called Mother suspiciously. "Where is the jam tart that was in the pantry?"
"Er—er . . . it's with the apple that was in there, too."

Added words

IN the little problems below, two three-letter words added together make a six-letter word. The first one is ham + let = hamlet.

Cooked meat + allowed = small village.

Unopened flower + obtain = financial statement.

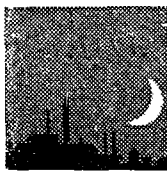
Puss + relatives = flowery growth. Sing with the mouth shut + belonging to us = mood.

Mischievous child + perform = collision.

Answer next week

OTHER WORLDS

IN the evening Jupiter is in the south-east. In the morning Venus, Mars, and Saturn are in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it will appear at 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening, December 9.



What is it . . .

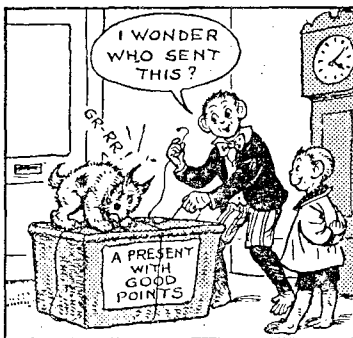
. . . that has a head, yet no eyes, ears, or mouth?

A hammer

NOT A VERY HANDY PRESENT, SAID JACKO



An interesting-looking hamper arrived from Uncle Jacko.



Jacko had great hopes of lots of nice things to eat at Christmas.



But he had to admit that the present had many good points.

Cock and Bull stories

IN the days of stage coaches both the bad state of the roads and the danger of highwaymen made travelling a perilous business. Between London and Birmingham passengers would alight from their coaches while the horses were changed, at either the Cock or Bull inns at Stony Stratford.

As they talked together they would exchange stories of past hazards they had encountered on their journeys which, of course, were often exaggerated. So, in time, unlikely accounts became known as "Cock and Bull stories."

Not musical

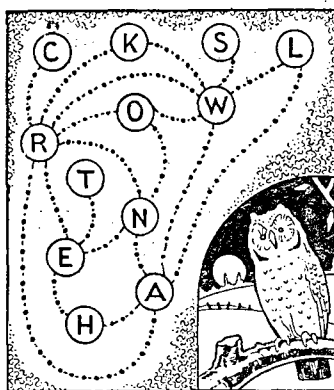
WHAT band is quiet, makes no noise?
It has no drums nor fifes for boys;
It is not heard, but it is felt—
This band is sometimes called a belt!

Sweet work

ANISEED balls take five days to make. They begin as grains of sugar in a container tilted at an angle. Hot syrup is poured in while the container is revolved at speed, thus ensuring that each sugar grain gets coated. The process is repeated again and again throughout five days until the aniseed balls have grown to the required size.

Can you . . .

. . . find the names of eight birds by starting at certain letters and following the lines? You must not move from one letter to another unless there is a connecting line.



Answer next week

Sammy Simple

WROTE Sammy trying to describe a circle: "It is a round straight line with a hole in the middle."

JUMBLE QUIZ

To find the answer to each clue rearrange the anagrams in brackets after the clue. Each solution starts with the letter C.

1. Queen of Egypt at the time of Julius Caesar; renowned for her beauty and charm. (PALACE ROT)

2. Province of Spain, once an independent kingdom; its language became the standard speech of Spain. (IT'S LACE)

3. Dye, used to colour food and materials, prepared from the bodies of certain insects found in Mexico and South America. (A NICE LOCH)

4. District of London on the North bank of the Thames; famous as an artists' quarter. (EEL CASH)

Answer next week

RIDDLE-ME-REE

My first is in four, but never in five;
My next's with the bees and is found in the hive;
My third is in accidents, casualties too;
My fourth is in landscapes but not in a view;
My fifth is in literature not in books;
My sixth's in the kitchen but not with the cooks;
My seventh's in swimming but not with the splash—
It comes in the lightning but not in the flash.
My whole shows a pleasure that all can enjoy,
Each lady and man, each girl and each boy.

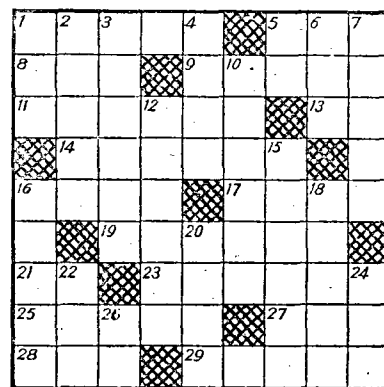
Answer next week

Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Deserve. 5 Favourite. 8 Exist. 9 Willow used in basket work. 11 He sticks to formal rules. 13 Los Angeles. 14 Eat it at breakfast. 16 Halt. 17 Subdue. 19 Fertiliser. 21 That is. 23 Long for. 25 Uncoloured. 27 Eastern title. 28 Tree. 2; There are eight in this.

READING DOWN. 1 Chart. 2 Build. 3 Buy back. 4 Pitch. 5 Greek letter p. 6 Snake-like fish. 7 Business. 10 Standing. 12 Fleet of warships. 15 Lasso. 16 Flavouring. 18 Melt into. 20 Emperor of Rome. 22 Old measure. 24 Devour. 26 Printer's measure.

Answer next week



Played down

"Do you boast of a football team here?" asked the visitor.
"We used to," replied the local;
"now we apologise for it."

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Fit the caps. Capital, capsize, captain, cape, capstan, capable, capsule, captive
What profession? Statesman: Disraeli
Jumble quiz: Baltimore, Beethoven, Bayonne, Barcelona.

BEDTIME CORNER

Knobber finds a way

KNOBBER was a young Red deer who lived in the Highlands, and the first autumn that his antlers grew branches he was very proud.

They were rather small and knobbly, though, and he longed for the time when he would have grown ones with enough points to qualify him for entry in the October games and wrestling matches with the King Stags to win a herd of his own.

"I must start training for that time at once," he decided. He began by keeping even closer watch against enemies, so he was always the first to dash away over the hillside at any hint of danger.

He also played many racing and chasing games with other very young stags, till he became the fleetest of foot and best at dodging. Then, when mid-October came and the King Stags roared their challenges, calling together the hinds who had been away during summer looking after

their fawns, Knobber thought: "I must watch how the young stags set about their contests with the Kings." This, too, he did, till the snow came and the games ended.

Then, towards the end of winter, the herd to which he belonged broke up, the hinds went off together, and he and the other stags went into hiding to shed their antlers again, and grow more new ones.

Soon Knobber was wondering what more he could learn. And presently luck came his way; for an old twelve point King Stag, who had noticed how well Knobber had

trained himself, asked him—as old stags will—to become his page.

He was to keep watch for the old King while he fed and rested; and to go first out of cover to see if all was clear. "So now," said Knobber happily, "I may learn first hand all that a King must know."

JANE THORNICROFT

